

the competent authority in the Government and thereafter, for final sanction of BIFR keeping in view the Government's declared policy towards Public Sector, which is to restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs, close down PSUs which cannot be revived, while fully protecting the interest of workers.

SC/ST dealers of NFL

†2793. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dealers appointed by the Vijaypur unit of National Fertilizers Limited, situated in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh during the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had issued direction to public sector fertiliser undertakings in 1978 to reserve twenty five per cent dealerships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) if so, whether the said unit has followed the said direction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has been following the policy of reserving 25% of all future appointment of dealers for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as per the instructions issued by Government of India in 1978. But the response has not been encouraging. During last five years NFL has appointed 1132 fertilizer dealers of which 804 are for Vijaipur unit. Of the total dealers, only 50 dealers belong to SCs/STs.

Inclusion of new drugs in negative list

2794. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include some more drugs and intermediates in the negative list of imports in the current year and coming two years;

(b) if so, the names of those drugs and intermediates;

(c) if not, the countries from where those drugs are likely to be imported; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) the details of steps taken to produce those drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) Almost all medicines are in the free list of imports. Imports are made by individual importers from various sources on commercial considerations.

(d) Industrial licensing for all bulk drugs and formulations cleared by the Drug Controller General of India has been abolished except in a very few cases. Higher return for basic stage production and exemption from price control for production based on indigenous R&D have been provided in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Regional imbalance in production of urea

2795. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern zone has fallen victim of gross regional imbalance in the production of urea;

(b) if so, the reasons and the steps proposed to remove this regional imbalance; and

(c) if not, the production and consumption figures of urea in four zones of the country for 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) Following table gives production and consumption zone-wise:

Name of Zone	(in Lakh MT)			
	1998-1999		1999-2000	
	Production	Consumption	Production	Consumption
Southern	27.63	38.69	29.32	40.52
Western	80.52	52.45	85.67	52.03
Eastern (including North-East)	4.32	28.43	4.28	31.66
Northern	80.44	84.39	79.03	85.30